


May 27, 1987

TO: File

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer 

RE: Site Inspection, UMETCO's LaSal Operations, M/037/026,
M/037/043, M/037/046

On April 14, 1987, Frank Filas met with Frank Barnet, foreman for UMETCO, and toured UMETCO's operations near LaSal. UMETCO currently has a crew of six working out of the LaSal Decline.

All permitted areas were found to be clean and free of safety and erosional concerns. A brief description of each site can be found below:

LaSal-Snowball (M/037/026)

This permit actually consists of three different sites (the LaSal and Snowball Declines and the Beaver Shaft) which will eventually interconnect underground. The main shops and offices are located at the LaSal decline. A low grade ore stockpile and waste pile are located to the east of the shop area. A water diversion channel and stockpiled topsoil are located around the perimeter of these piles.

The Snowball Decline is located one and one-half miles east of the LaSal Decline by county road. It is immediately north of Atlas's Pandora Mine. The Snowball site is older and has large waste piles standing at their angle of repose. No topsoil was saved when these piles were originally laid down, and the site will present a major problem when it is eventually reclaimed. A good job has been done in filling and grading the area above the mine site and in ditching the road. There is minor erosion off the waste pile onto the road. Mr. Barnet suggested that this might be alleviated by building a small sedimentation pond at the base of the pile.

The Beaver Shaft site is visible from Highway 46 and is located approximately one mile northwest of the LaSal decline. The site consists of a head frame, loading bin, and three ore stockpiles. The waste pile and vegetation test plots are located one-half mile to the east. The LaSal waste plot has a fair growth of crested wheatgrass on it, but the other plots show no growth.

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Hecla Shaft (M/037/043)

This mine is located approximately six miles east of LaSal Junction and is visible from Highway 46. The site consists of several shop and office buildings, a large head frame, a water treatment building with holding pond, and a waste pile located behind the trees and further to the west. UMETCO continues to pump and treat the water, although the mine has been on standby since December, 1982. A good quantity of topsoil has been stockpiled next to the waste pile. It appears that additional topsoil could be salvaged prior to expanding the waste pile.

Redd Block Four (M/037/046)

Redd Block Four is located two miles northeast of the Hecla Shaft. A hoist house and two dewatering ponds were constructed in 1980 before the project was put on indefinite hold. Good vegetative growth has returned on the pad and pond-areas.

clj
cc: L. Braxton
1117R-91